

Response Under 37 CFR §1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 1645

Application No. 10/536,533

Paper Dated: April 5, 2011

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of January 5, 2011

Attorney Docket No. 4544-051675

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing an agglutination reagent for detecting typhoid comprising:

(a) preparing an ~~antibody~~ a plurality of antibodies specific to a Flagellin gene of *Salmonella typhi*;

(b) preparing a latex particle suspension; and

(c) coating a plurality of latex particle ~~particles~~ with said antibody specific to said Flagellin gene of *Salmonella typhi*;

wherein said antibody specific to the Flagellin gene of *Salmonella typhi* is prepared according to a method comprising:

(i) raising a hyper immune sera against a purified protein encoded by a Flagellin gene specific to *Salmonella typhi*, and

(ii) separating said antibody specific to the Flagellin gene of *Salmonella typhi* from said hyper immune sera;

wherein said latex particle suspension is prepared according to a method consisting essentially of:

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- (i) mixing 1% carboxylated latex particles and a 40 mM 2-N morpholinoethane sulphonic acid (MES) buffer of pH 5.5 to 6.5 in a ratio of 1:1, washing with a 20 mM MES buffer of pH 5.5 thereby forming a plurality of washed latex particle~~particles~~, and
- (ii) adding a 1-ethyl-3 (3-dimethyl-amino propyl) carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) in a 20 mM MES buffer of pH 5.5 to said plurality of washed latex particle~~particles~~ in a ratio of 1:1 , washing with a 20 mM MES buffer (pH 5.5); and

wherein said plurality of latex particle~~particles~~ are coated according to a method consisting essentially of:

- (i) reacting said plurality of antibodies~~antibody~~ specific to the Flagellin gene of *Salmonella* typhi with said plurality of washed latex particle~~particles~~ thereby forming a plurality of an antibody specific to the Flagellin gene of Salmonella typhi-coated latex particle~~particles~~,
- (ii) stopping the reacting step (i) by adding 1M glycine (pH 11.0) , and
- (iii) washing said antibody specific to the Flagellin gene of Salmonella typhi~~plurality of coated latex particle~~particles with a washing buffer consisting essentially of 50 mM glycine, pH 8.5; 0.03% surfactant and 0.05% sodium azide.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An agglutination reagent for rapid and early detection of typhoid, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a plurality of carboxylated latex particle~~particles~~ suspended in a storage buffer, wherein the carboxylated latex particles~~consist particle-coated~~ consists essentially of an antibody specific to a Flagellin gene.

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Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The agglutination reagent as claimed in claim 24, wherein the size of the said latex particles is 0.88 to 0.90 μm .

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The agglutination reagent as claimed in claim 24, wherein the said storage buffer is comprised of 50 mM glycine pH 8.5, 1.0% bovine serum albumin, 0.03% surfactant, 0.1% sodium azide and 0.01% thimerosal.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The agglutination reagent for rapid and early detection of typhoid as claimed in claim 24, wherein said antibody is an immunoglobulin fraction of a hyper immune sera raised against a protein encoded by a Flagellin gene specific to *Salmonella typhi*, and wherein said storage buffer is a 50 mM phosphate buffer.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): A kit for rapid and early detection of typhoid comprising 1% agglutination reagent as claimed in claim 24 suspended in storage buffer, glass slides, droppers, wooden sticks and positive and negative controls.